

ABSTRACTIMPROVEMENTS TO CONTROL SYSTEM FOR NETWORK  
SERVERS

A data transfer network is provided which comprises a TFTP server connected to transfer data to a series of client apparatus connected to the network. When data is to be transferred, one of the clients is designated the master client and the speed of requests for data from the master client determines the rate of transfer of the data to all of the clients. The rate of transfer of data to each client, when elected as the master client, is monitored and compared with predetermined transfer rates. If from the comparison it is identified that the transfer rates is longer than that which is required, the TFTP server elects another client which is available as master client. In the event that one of the clients is disabled and cannot act as a master client to receive data, this is identified by the TFTP server by monitoring network management messages which identify the disablement or unavailability of the client. If a client is identified as being unavailable or disabled, the TFTP server does not attempt to elect the client as master client.